

Claims

1. (-)-cis-4-Amino-1-(2-hydroxymethyl-1,3-oxathiolane-5-yl)-(1H)-pyrimidin-2-one or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.
2. A compound as claimed in Claim 1 substantially free of the corresponding (+)-enantiomer.
3. A compound as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the (+)-enantiomer is present in an amount of no more than about 5% w/w.
4. A compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3 wherein the (+)-enantiomer is present in an amount of no more than about 2% w/w.
5. A compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4 wherein the (+)-enantiomer is present in an amount of less than about 1% w/w.
6. A compound as claimed in Claim 1 in substantially pure form.
7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.
8. A compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6 for use in therapy.
9. Use of a compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a viral infection.
10. A method for the treatment of a mammal, including man, suffering from or susceptible to viral infection comprising administration of an effective amount of a compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6.

- 31 -

11. A method for the preparation of a compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6 which comprises separation of the (-)-enantiomer from a mixture also containing the (+)-enantiomer.

12. A method as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the mixture of compounds is a racemic mixture.

13. A method as claimed in Claim 11 or Claim 12 the separation is effected by chiral HPLC.

14. A method as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the HPLC employs as a stationary phase acetylated β -cyclodextrin or cellulose triacetate.

15. A method as claimed in Claim 11 or Claim 12 wherein the separation is effected by enzyme-mediated enantioselective catabolism.

16. A method is claimed in Claim 15 wherein the enzyme is employed in immobilised form.

17. A method as claimed in Claim 15 or Claim 16 wherein the enzyme is cytidine deaminase.

18. A method as claimed in Claim 15 or Claim 16 wherein the enzyme is a 5'-nucleotidase.